

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

This Amendment cancels Claim 62; and amends Claims 52, 55 and 63. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. In particular, support for Claim 52 is found in canceled claim 62. No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 52, 54-61 and 63 will be pending in this application. Claim 52 is independent.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, in light of the remarks that follow.

The present invention provides a method of treating an etched dielectric film in order to perform at least one of healing, sealing and cleansing of the dielectric film. Specification at [0001].

Claims 52 and 54-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0089988 ("Matsuura") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US2003/0003768 ("Cho"). However, Claims 62-63 are not rejected over prior art. Claim 62 is canceled, and incorporated into independent Claim 52. Thus, the prior art rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 52 and 54-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. To obviate the rejection, Claim 52 is amended by deleting "in a non-plasma environment".

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 03/06)

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Steven P. Weihrouch
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 32,829

Corwin P. Umbach, Ph.D.
Registration No. 40,211